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DETAILS INSIDE



# PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®



FEATURING  
THE  
LONG-AWAITED  
RETURN OF  
HARRY OSBORN  
AND  
LIZ ALLEN!



THE MARK OF THE  
**MOLTEN MAN!**

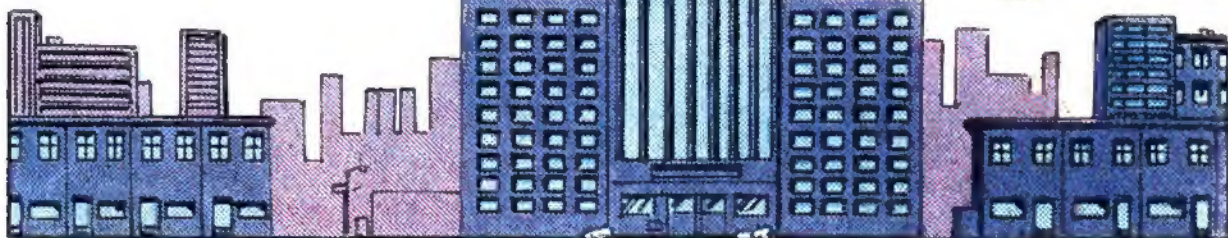




AMID THE POVERTY AND DESOLATION OF MANHATTAN'S LOWER EAST SIDE STANDS LOISAIDA MEDICAL CENTER, A NEW HOSPITAL BUILT ON A FIRE-RAZED SECTION OF SLUM.

THOUGH CONSTRUCTION ENDED OVER A YEAR AGO, ITS DOORS HAVE YET TO OPEN.

BLAME THE BUREAUCRACY. BLAME THE FISCAL CRISIS. BLAME WHOEVER YOU WANT...

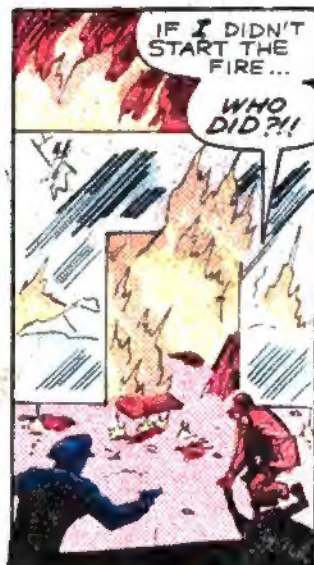


...BUT THE ONE INCONVERTIBLE FACT IS THAT THE NEW LOISAIDA MEDICAL CENTER WILL NEVER SEE A SINGLE PATIENT. SOME SAY THAT THE PLOT OF REAL ESTATE ON WHICH IT STANDS IS CURSED... THAT LOISAIDA--LIKE THE BUILDING THAT OCCUPIED THE SITE BEFORE IT--IS DOOMED TO FIERY DEVASTATION.



# A FIREBUG

INTENDS TO MAKE THAT CURSE COME TRUE TONIGHT!



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IN THE ENSUING HOURS, NEW YORK CITY'S POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS WILL BE TOO INVOLVED IN THEIR DESPERATE ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL THE CONFLAGRATION TO DEAL WITH QUESTIONS OF THE FIREBUG'S GUILT OR INNOCENCE! THAT TASK, BY DEFAULT, WILL FALL TO A CERTAIN WONDROUS WALL-CRAWLER...

**Stan Lee PRESENTS: PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!**

I SAW THE FLAMES  
SHOOTING UP INTO  
THE NIGHT FROM  
ALL THE WAY ACROSS  
TOWN...

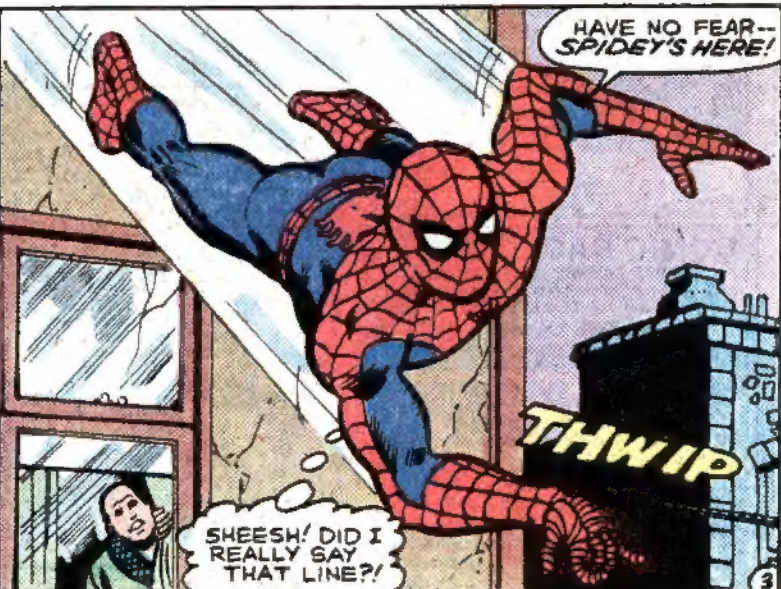
I SWUNG OVER  
AS FAST AS MY  
LITTLE WEB-LINE  
COULD CARRY ME  
TO SEE IF SPIDER-  
MAN COULD BE  
OF HELP!

DIDN'T  
THIS PLACE  
HAVE A  
SPRINKLER  
SYSTEM?!

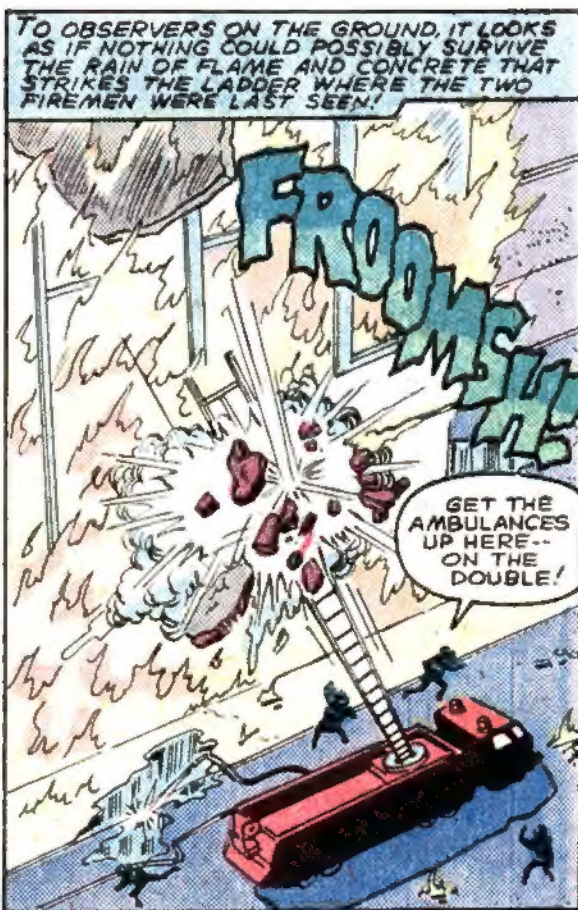
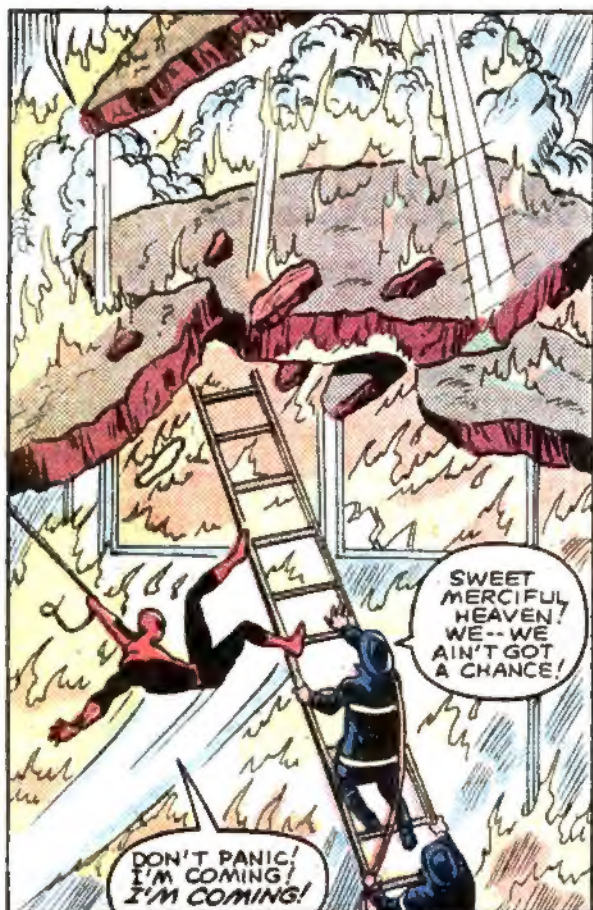
THE HOSPITAL  
NEVER OPENED--  
SO THEY NEVER  
TURNED THE  
SPRINKLERS ON!

BILL MANTLO -- WRITER  
GREG LAROCQUE -- PENCILS  
JIM MOONEY -- INKS  
DIANA ALBERS -- LETTERS  
BOB SHAREN -- COLORS  
TOM DE FALCO -- EDITOR  
JIM SHOOTER -- EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

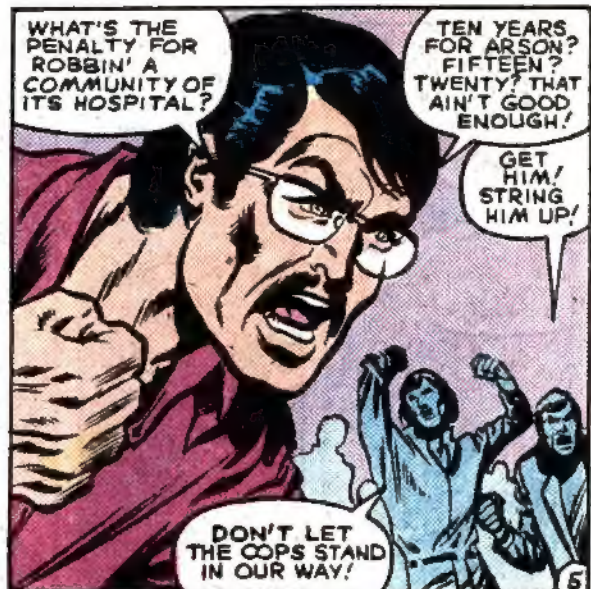
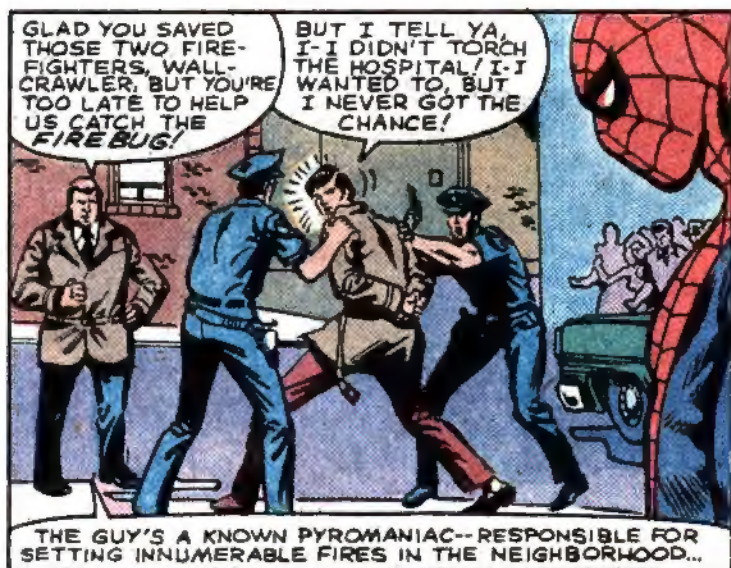
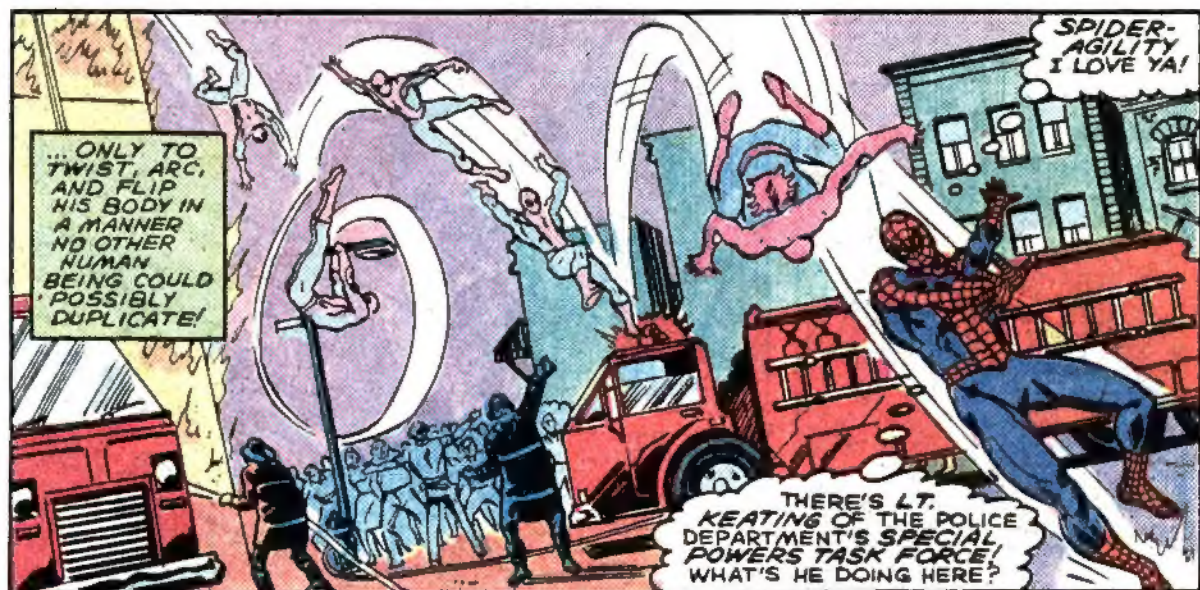




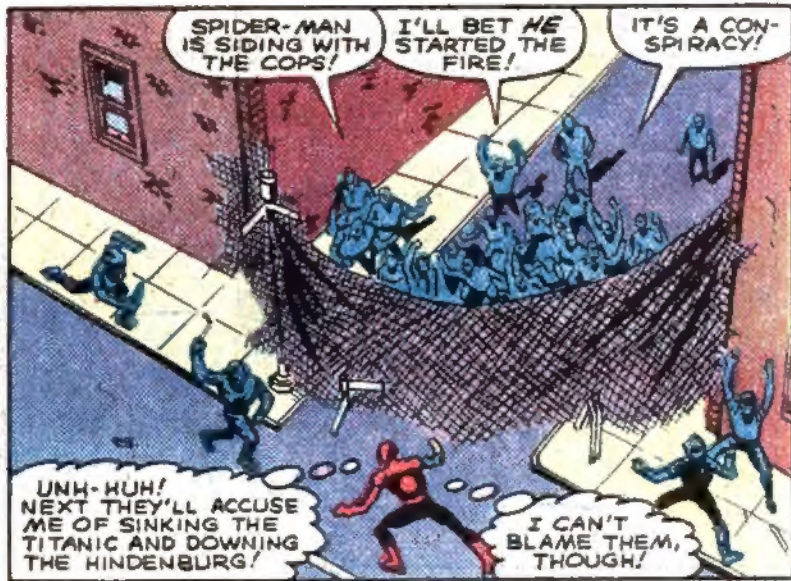
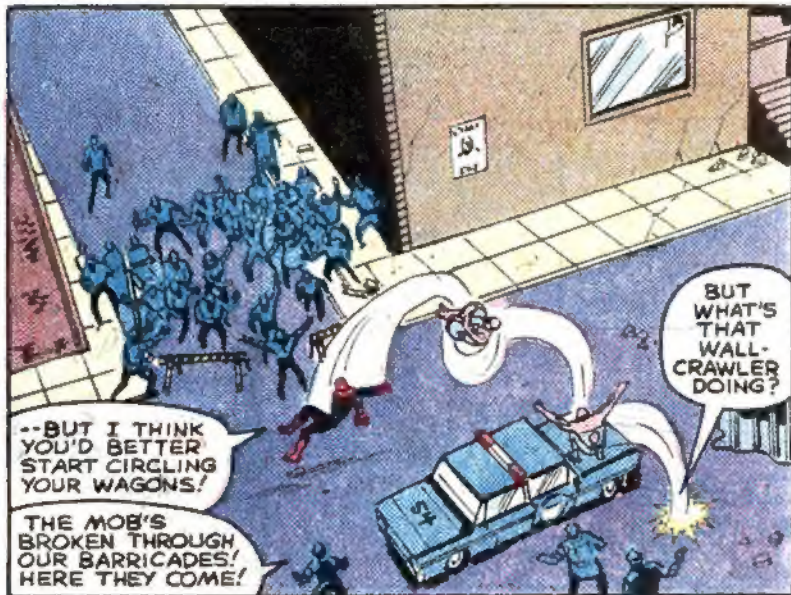














HOURS LATER, HAVING RETRIEVED HIS CAMERA, SPIDER-MAN STARTS TO SWING AWAY FROM THE SCENE OF THE NIGHT'S DISASTER...

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S FINALLY GOT THE BLAZE PUT OUT AND KEATING'S MANAGED TO DISPERSE THE CROWD!

IT'S FUNNY HOW THAT FIREBUG KEPT PROTESTING HIS INNOCENCE... ESPECIALLY SINCE HE WAS CAUGHT RED-HANDED! MAYBE THIS CASE DESERVES A SECOND LOOK...

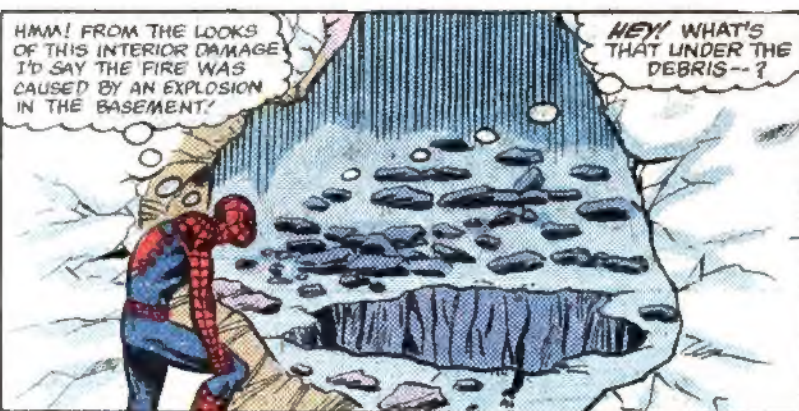
SOON, AT THE LESS FIRE-DAMAGED REAR OF THE HOSPITAL...



THIS IS WHERE THAT SECURITY GUARD CAUGHT THE FIREBUG--!

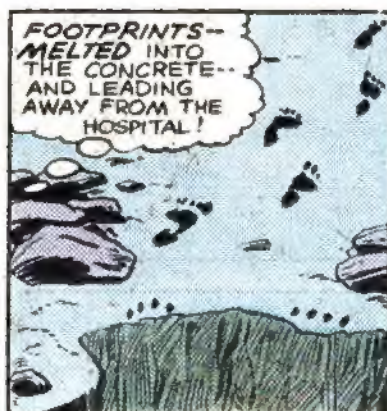
ODD! THAT HOLE IN THE WALL DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT WAS CAUSED BY THE FIRE! MAYBE I'D BETTER PEEK INSIDE...

HMM! FROM THE LOOKS OF THIS INTERIOR DAMAGE I'D SAY THE FIRE WAS CAUSED BY AN EXPLOSION IN THE BASEMENT!



HEY! WHAT'S THAT UNDER THE DEBRIS--?

FOOTPRINTS-- MELTED INTO THE CONCRETE-- AND LEADING AWAY FROM THE HOSPITAL!



THE PAPERS REPORTED THAT THIS SITE WAS CURSED... THAT THE HOSPITAL WOULD BE CONSUMED IN FIRE-- LIKE THE BUILDING WHICH STOOD HERE BEFORE IT!

I THOUGHT THAT WAS JUST YELLOW JOURNALISM...



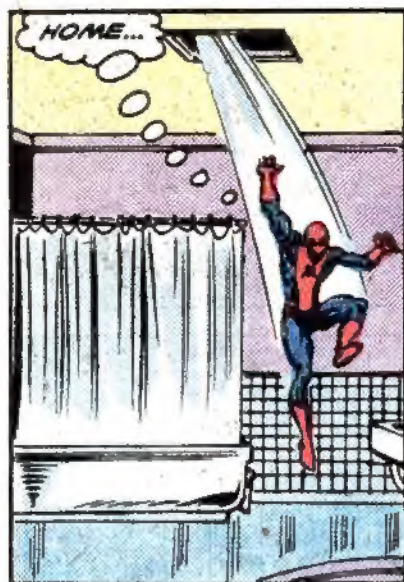
... BUT NOW I REMEMBER WHAT STOOD ON THIS BLOCK BEFORE-- THE FENSTER PHARMACEUTICALS COMPANY!

AND, UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, THAT FIREBUG JUST MAY HAVE BEEN TELLING THE TRUTH ALL ALONG!

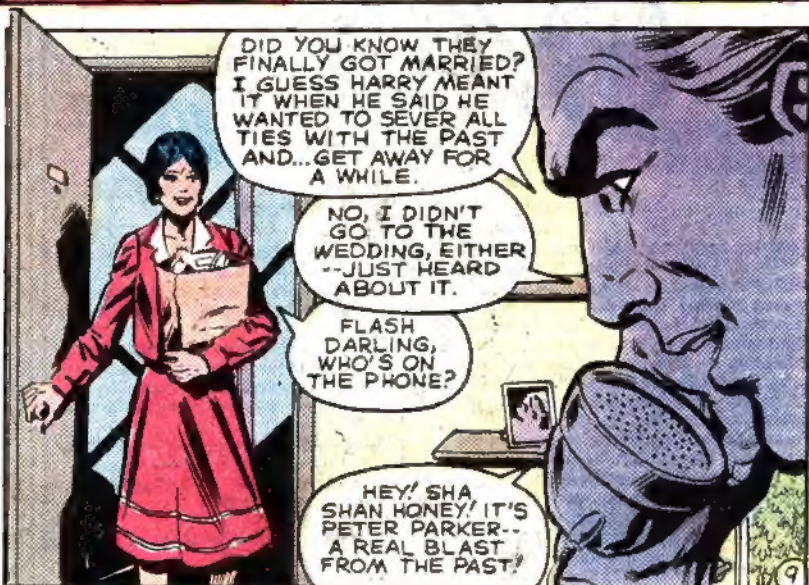
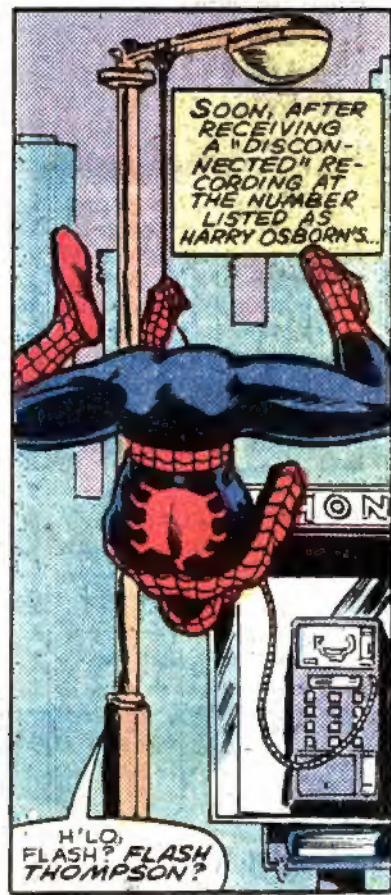


THE AMAZING ARACHNID SWINGS OFF INTO THE NIGHT ON A SLENDER STRAND OF WEBBING...











**SAME OLD FLASH--AS EXUBERANT AS EVER--AND IT SOUNDS LIKE HE AND SHA SHAN ARE STILL HAPPY TOGETHER!**

**RITUAL ADVISOR**

**ASTROLOGY**

**YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE HARRY AND LIZ ARE NOW, WOULD YOU?**

**YOU SHOULD HAVE INVITED PETER OVER BEFORE HANGING UP, FLASH.**

**YOU'RE RIGHT, HONEY--GUESS I WASN'T THINKING. GEE, PETER AND I STARTED OUT AS ENEMIES AND LEFT OFF AS BEST FRIENDS...**

**ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY--I GOT A CHRISTMAS CARD FROM THEM!**

**THANKS, FLASH! THANKS A LOT!**

**...AND NOW WE HARDLY EVER SEE EACH OTHER. THAT'S LIFE, HUH?**

**LIFE! FRIENDSHIPS SWEEP AWAY LIKE WATER UNDER A BRIDGE! BUT SOMEHOW I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LOSE TRACK OF THE OLD GANG...**

**...HIGH SCHOOL SEEMS A LIFE-TIME AGO!**

**MAYBE MY SEARCH FOR HARRY AND LIZ WILL KICK OFF A REUNION--IF A CERTAIN MENACE FROM THE PAST HASN'T ALREADY REACHED THEM!**

**NO! I CAN'T THINK THAT!**

**THE PORT AUTHORITY BUS TERMINAL IS THE GATEWAY TO NEW JERSEY...**

**...AND HITCHING A RIDE TO ENGLEWOOD IS FASTER THAN WEB-SLINGING IN A STATE THAT'S GOT MORE TREES THAN SKYSCRAPERS!**

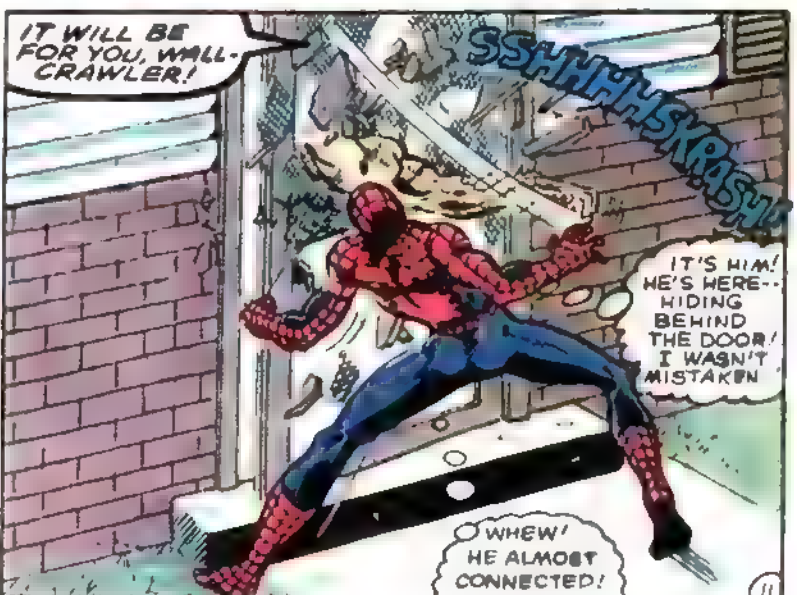
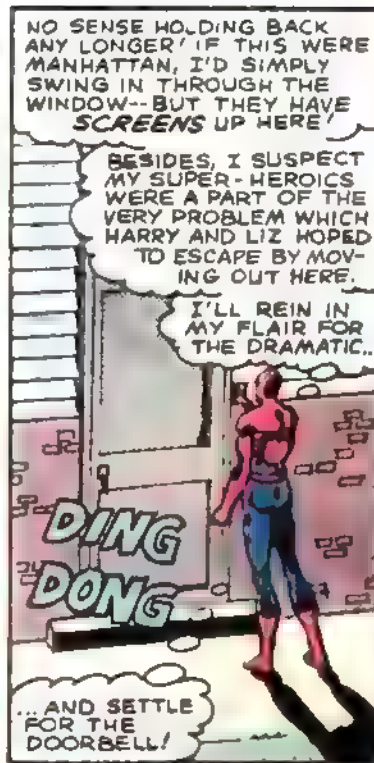
**ENGLEWOOD EXIT ONLY 6 F**

**THUS, SOON.**

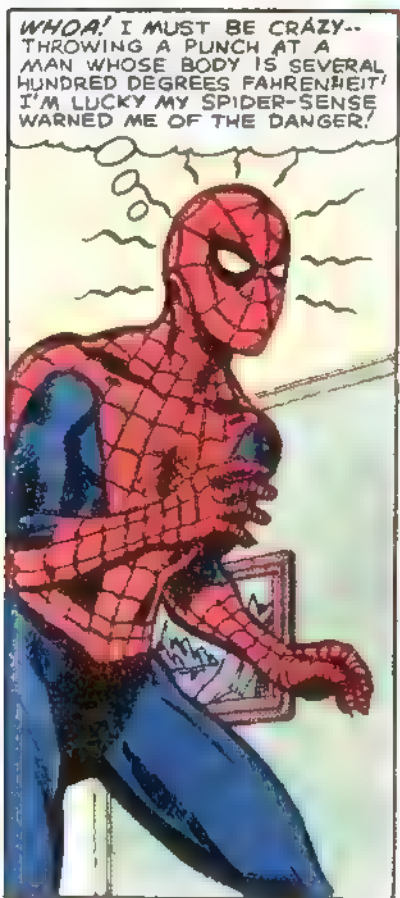
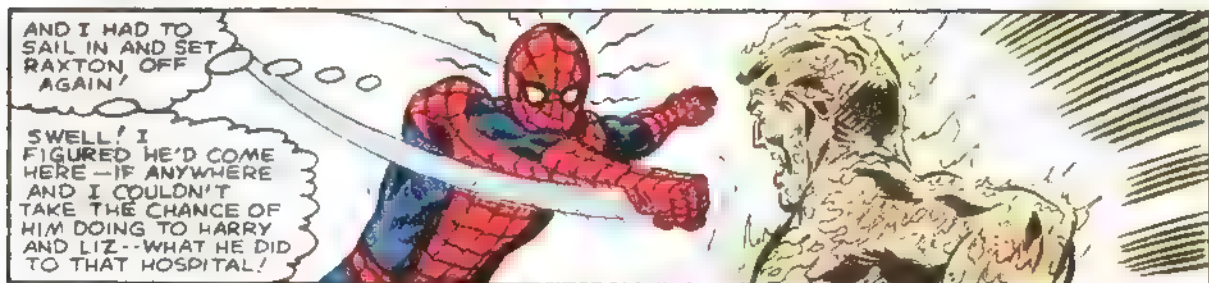
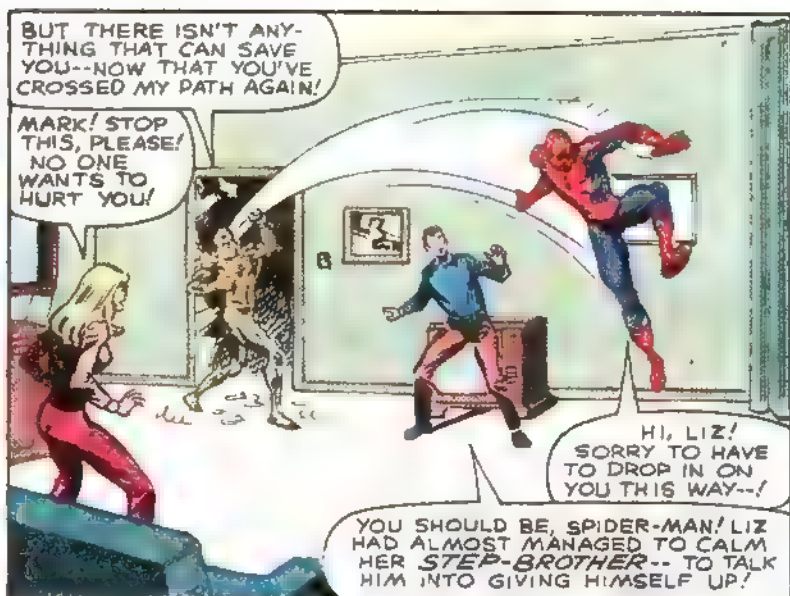
**THERE IT IS! A SNUG LITTLE RANCH HOUSE IN A NICE NEIGHBORHOOD! JUST THE KIND OF PEACE HARRY AND LIZ DESERVE! THEY'VE HAD THEIR SHARE OF PROBLEMS!**

**HARRY USED TO SUFFER FROM A SPLIT PERSONALITY! IN TIMES OF GREAT STRESS, HE WOULD GO WILD AND BECOME MY GREATEST ENEMY... THE GREEN GOBLIN!**

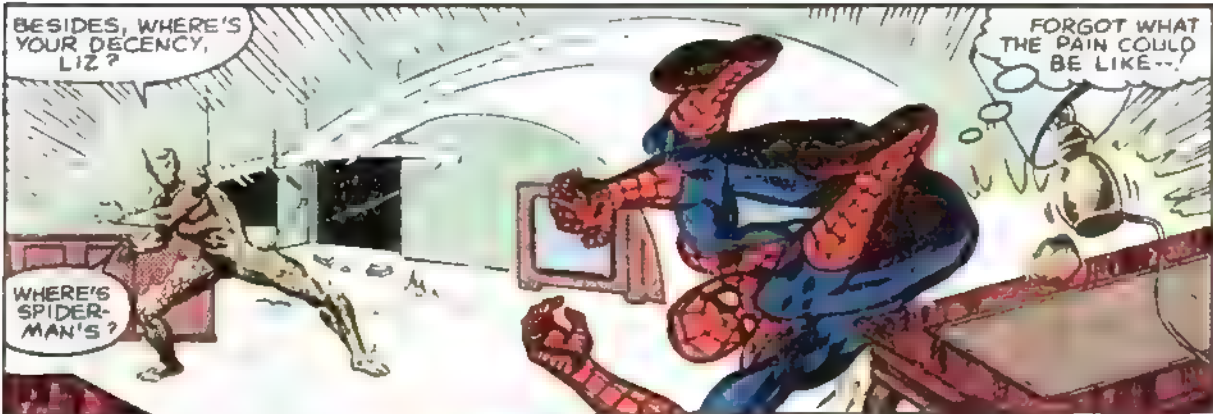












BESIDES, WHERE'S YOUR DECENCY, LIZ?

WHERE'S SPIDER-MAN'S?

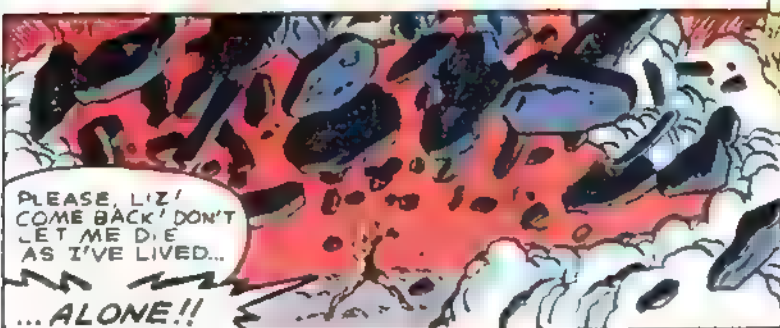
FORGOT WHAT THE PAIN COULD BE LIKE...



ALL I EVER DID WAS ASK YOU FOR HELP--ASK YOU TO STEAL CHEMICALS THAT COULD CURE ME OF MY CONDITION! SURELY THAT WASN'T SO MUCH TO DO FOR YOUR STEP-BROTHER!

BUT YOU LET YOURSELF GET CAUGHT, AND TIME RAN OUT FOR ME! I KNEW I WAS DYING, AND DIDN'T WANT TO GO ALONE!

LET THE GIRL GO MOLTY!

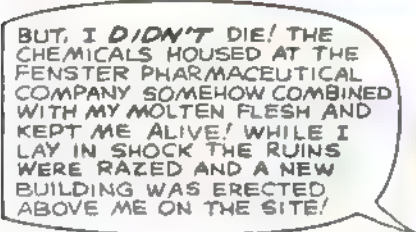


PLEASE, LIZ! COME BACK! DON'T LET ME DIE AS I'VE LIVED...

...ALONE!!

AND YOU, SPIDER-MAN-- INSTEAD OF LETTING ME GO TO MY DEATH WITH THE ONLY PERSON WHO EVER CARED FOR ME-- YOU SNATCHED LIZ AWAY JUST AT THE MOMENT WHEN I SEEMED TO ERUPT IN FLAMES!\*

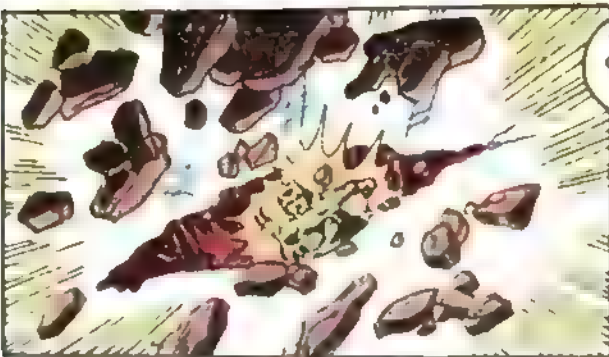
\* SEE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #173.



BUT, I DIDN'T DIE! THE CHEMICALS HOUSED AT THE FENSTER PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY SOMEHOW COMBINED WITH MY MOLTEN FLESH AND KEPT ME ALIVE! WHILE I LAY IN SHOCK THE RUINS WERE RAZED AND A NEW BUILDING WAS ERECTED ABOVE ME ON THE SITE!

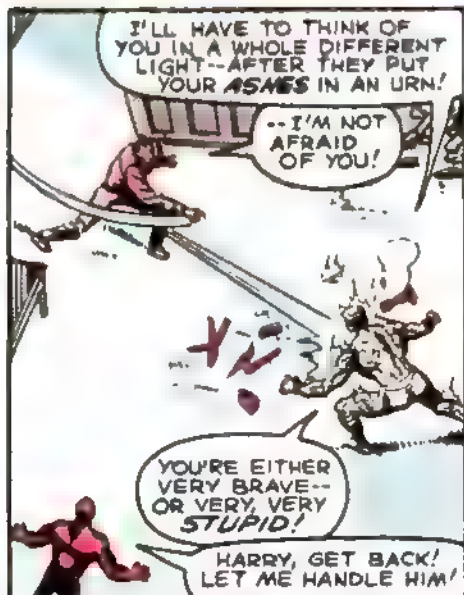
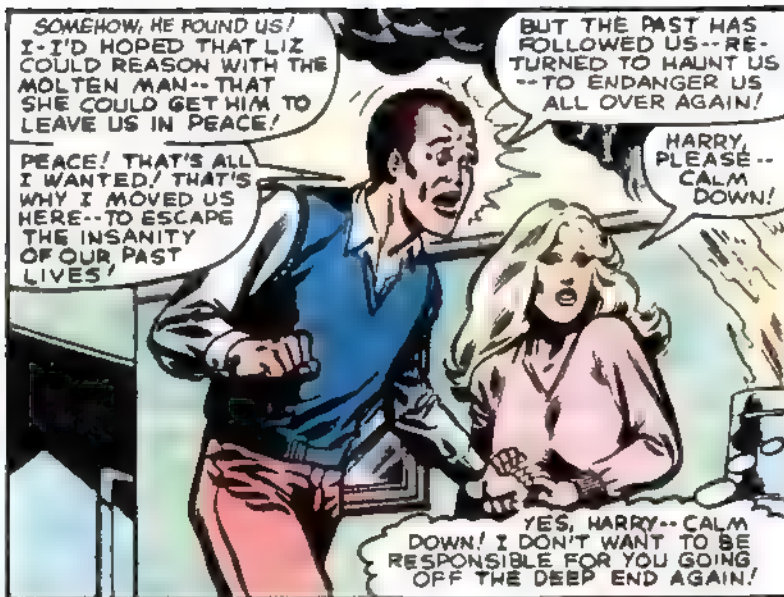


THEN, EARLIER TODAY, I AWOKE-- COMING TO LIFE LIKE AN ERUPTING VOLCANO!

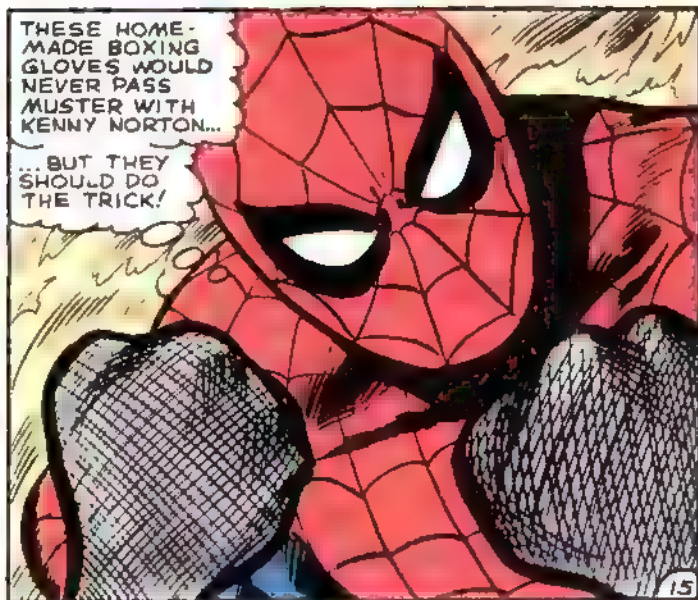
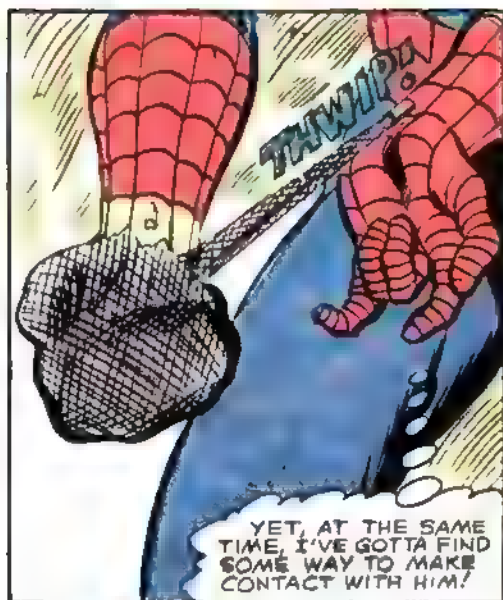
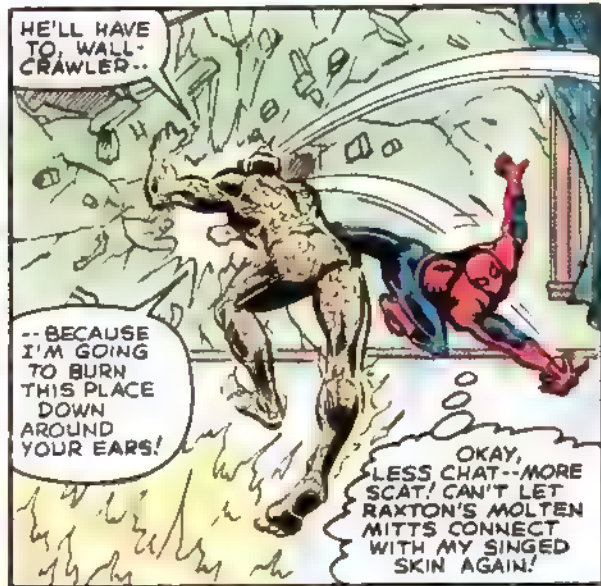
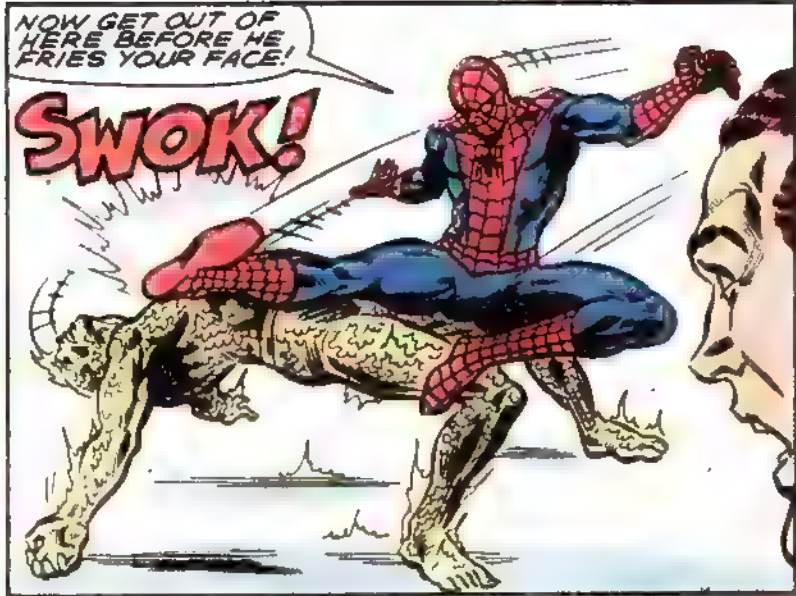


THE MOLTEN MAN WAS FREE!

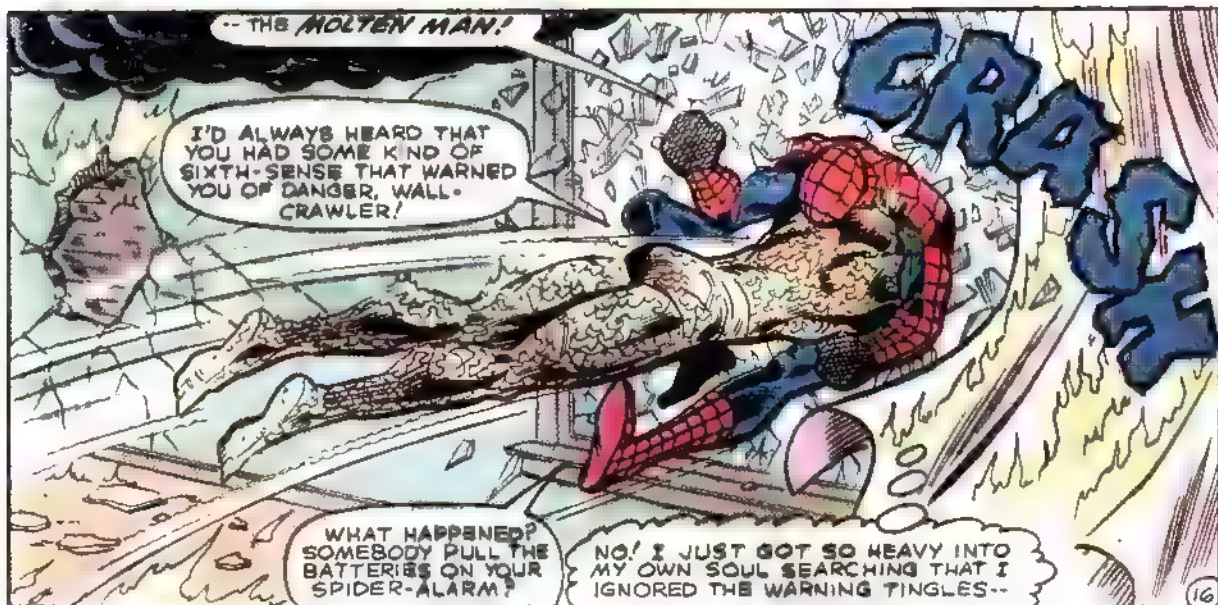
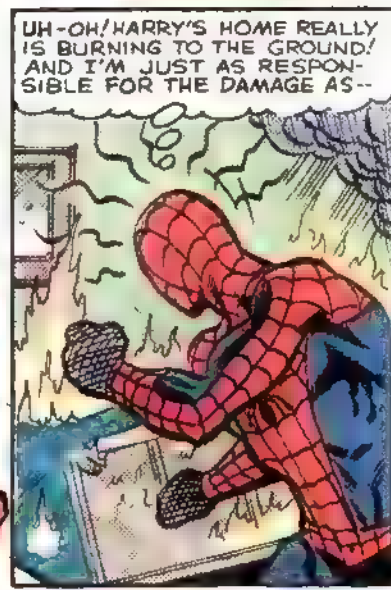
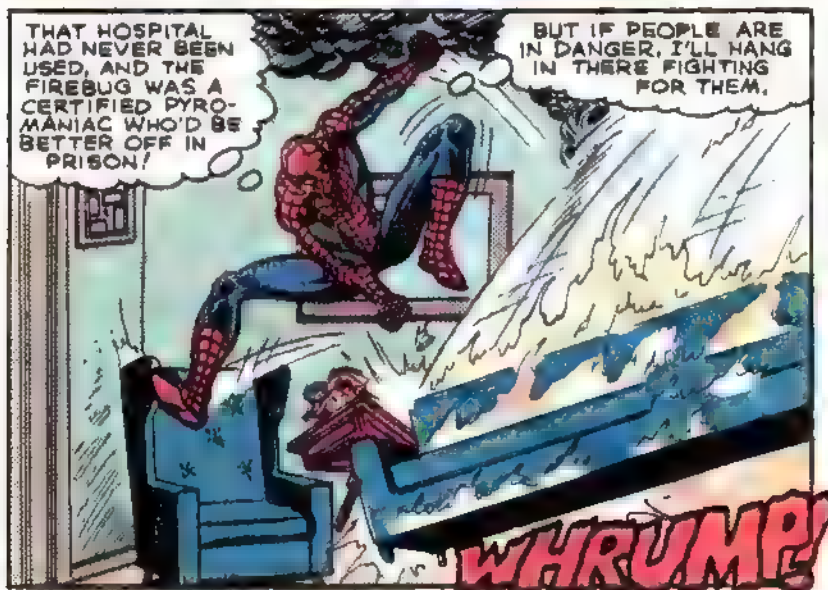












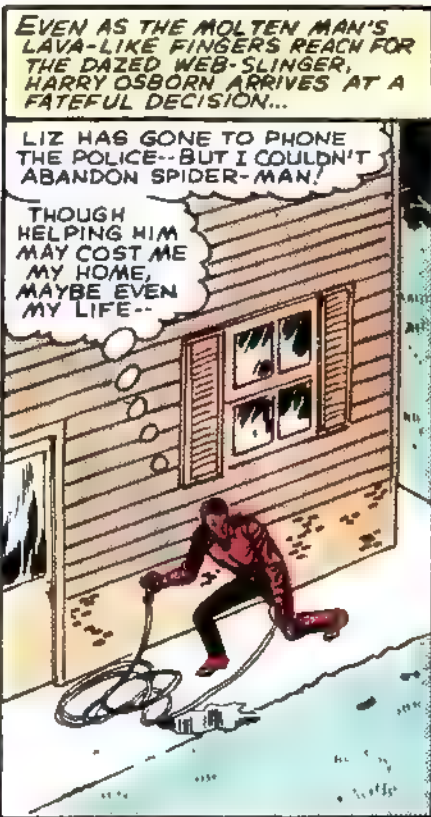




--AND THIS WALKING, TALKING LAVA-FLOW IS GOING TO MAKE ME PAY FOR MY PRE-OCCUPATION!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I'M GOING TO DO TO YOU NOW, WEB-SLINGER?

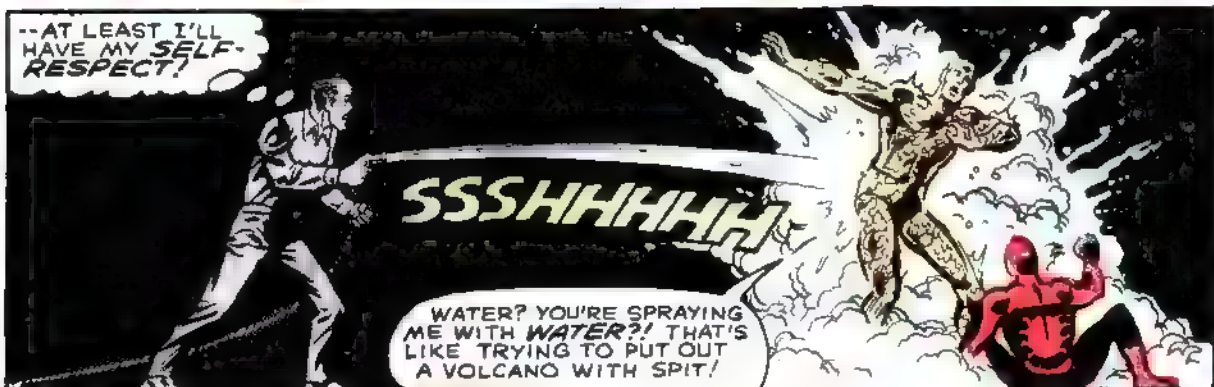
UH, SOMETHING LIKE WHAT MT. ST. HELENS DID TO THE STATE OF WASHINGTON?



EVEN AS THE MOLTEN MAN'S LAVA-LIKE FINGERS REACH FOR THE DAZED WEB-SLINGER, HARRY OSBORN ARRIVES AT A FATEFUL DECISION...

LIZ HAS GONE TO PHONE THE POLICE-- BUT I COULDN'T ABANDON SPIDER-MAN!

THOUGH HELPING HIM MAY COST ME MY HOME, MAYBE EVEN MY LIFE--



--AT LEAST I'LL HAVE MY SELF-RESPECT!

SSSHHHHHH

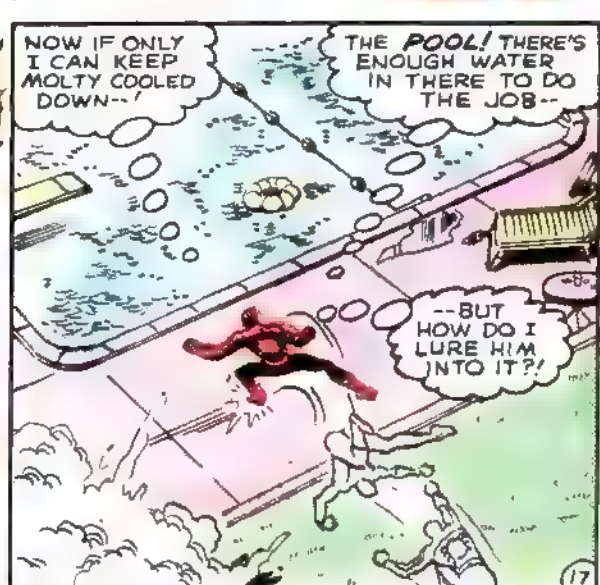
WATER? YOU'RE SPRAYING ME WITH WATER?! THAT'S LIKE TRYING TO PUT OUT A VOLCANO WITH SPIT!



MAYBE HARRY'S ACTION CAN'T DAMPEN YOUR BLAZING BODY, MOLTY-- BUT IT CAN COOL IT DOWN ENOUGH FOR ME TO DO--

--THIS!

SPAK!



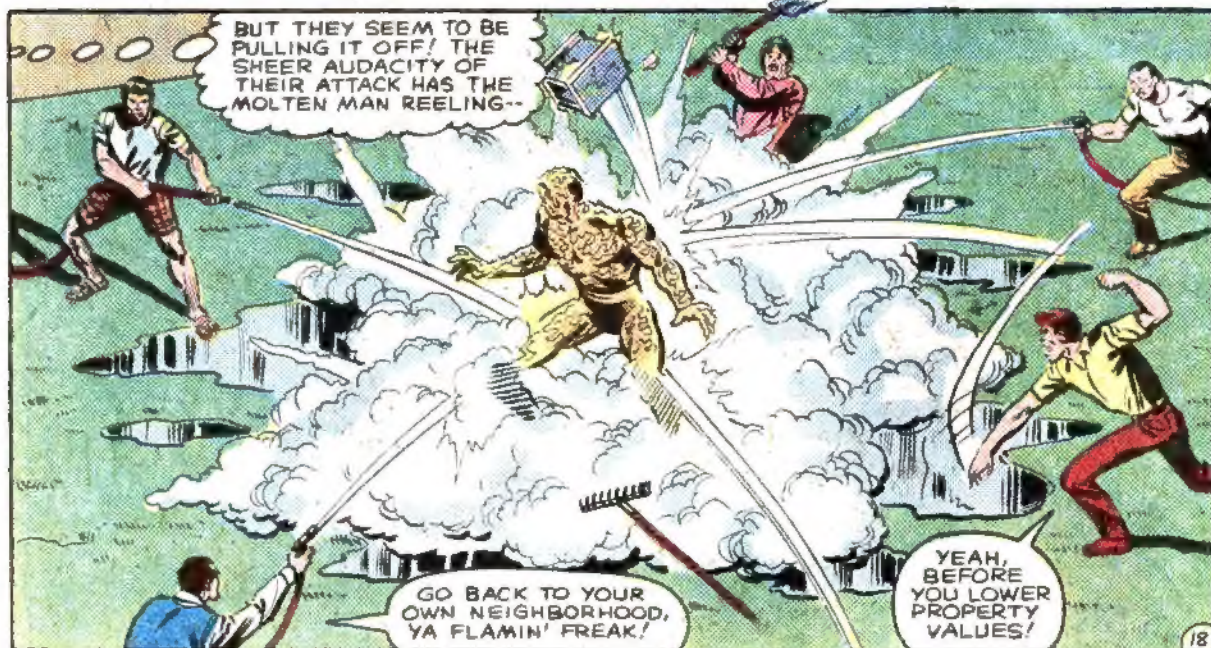
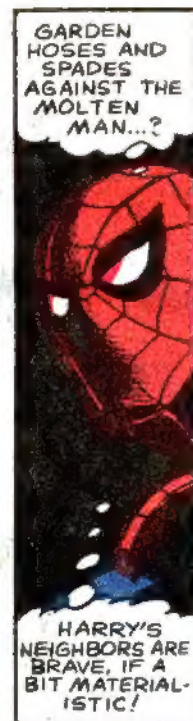
NOW IF ONLY I CAN KEEP MOLTY COOLED DOWN--

THE POOL! THERE'S ENOUGH WATER IN THERE TO DO THE JOB--

--BUT HOW DO I LURE HIM INTO IT?!



AS SPIDER-MAN PONDERES HOW TO BRING ABOUT THE MOLTEN MAN'S DEFEAT, ALL OF ENGLEWOOD SEEMS TO COME ALIVE AS HARRY AND LIZ'S NEIGHBORS POUR FORTH FROM THEIR HOMES...





THE CONSTANT STREAM OF WATER HAS  
DROPPED THE MOLTEN MAN'S TEMPERA-  
TURE BY SEVERAL HUNDRED DEGREES--

--I CAN GET  
IN A FEW SOLID  
SHOTS WITHOUT  
WORRYING ABOUT  
FRYING MY  
FINGERS!

**SPKOW!**

BUT I'M NOT HOME  
FREE YET! ALREADY  
RAXTON'S BODY IS  
REHEATING, TURNING  
THE WATER INTO  
STEAM!

IT'S ONLY A MATTER  
OF TIME BEFORE HE  
REALIZES HE CAN CUT  
OFF THE FLOW BY ATTACKING  
HARRY'S NEIGHBORS!

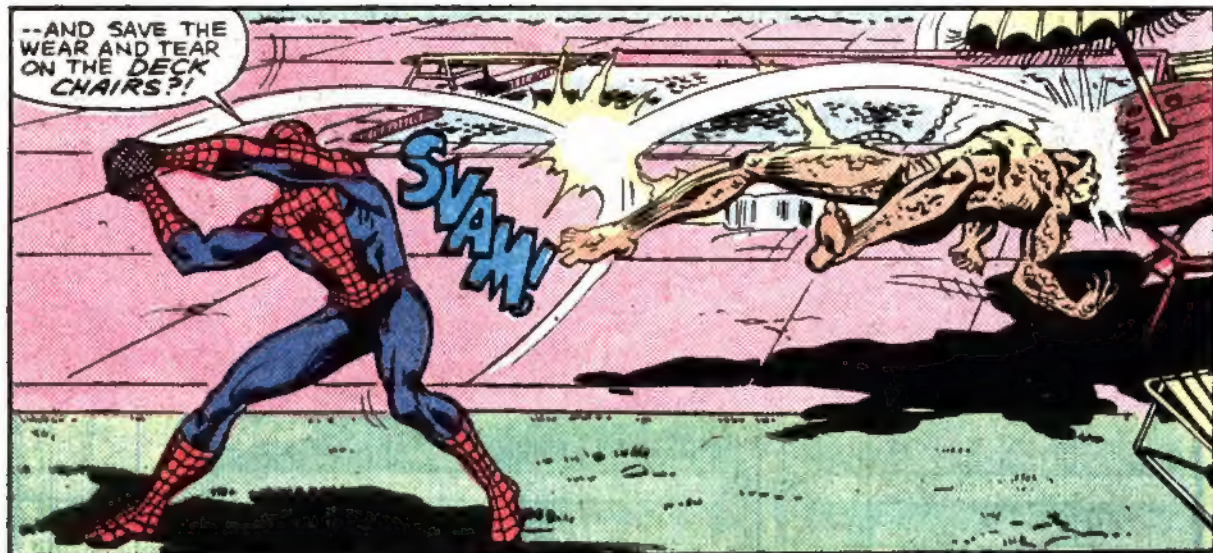
I'VE  
GOT TO  
BEAT HIM  
BEFORE  
THAT  
HAPPENS!

AND I THINK  
THE MOMENT  
OF TRUTH--

--IS JUST  
ABOUT...  
**NOW!**

SORRY TO BE ON YOUR  
BACK ABOUT THIS,  
MOLTY, BUT WHY  
DON'T YOU JUST  
SURRENDER--





OH, LORD! HE'S NOT HURT! HE'S GETTING UP AGAIN!

THAT'S RIGHT, SISTER! LIKE I SAID BEFORE, I MIGHT'VE ALREADY GONE BEYOND THE POINT WHERE ANYTHING CAN HURT ME!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

DO? FOR STARTERS I'M GOING TO BARBECUE YOU AND YOUR WIFE, OSBORN-- THEN I'M GONNA BURN NEW JERSEY TO THE GROUND--

I DON'T THINK SO, MOLTEN MAN-- IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED--

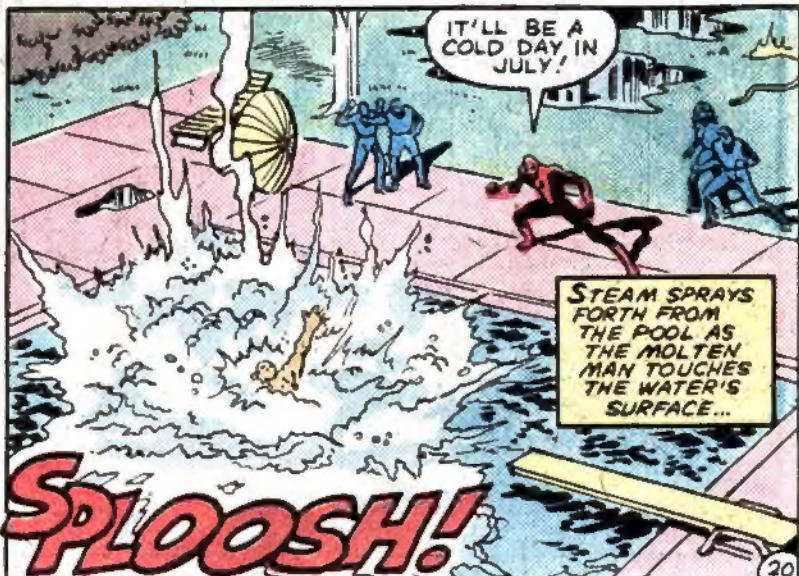


-- YOU'RE NOT SO HOT ANYMORE!

INSTEAD OF BLAZING LIKE A FOUR-ALARMER, YOU'VE GONE KIND OF COLD AND CLAMMY-- LIKE A CAMPFIRE AFTER A THUNDER-SHOWER!



I'LL HEAT UP AGAIN, WALL-CRAWLER, AND WHEN I DO...!

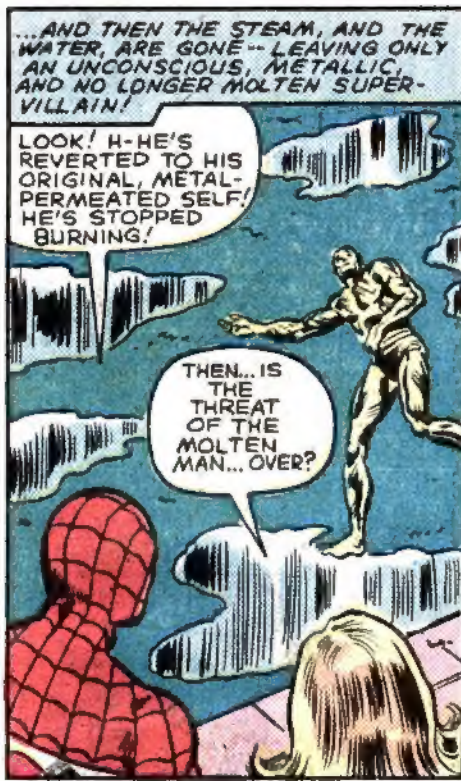


IT'LL BE A COLD DAY IN JULY!

STEAM SPRAYS FORTH FROM THE POOL AS THE MOLTEN MAN TOUCHES THE WATER'S SURFACE...

**SPLOOSH!**

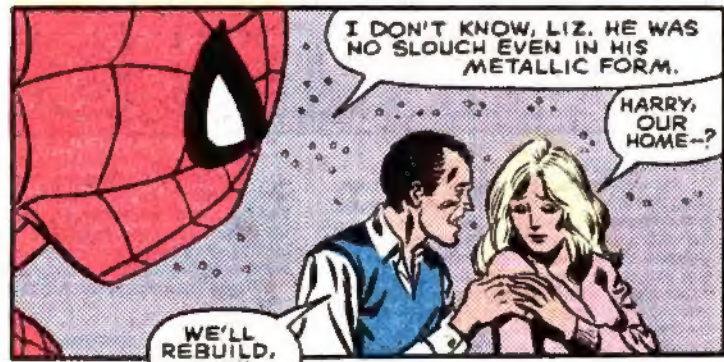




...AND THEN THE STEAM, AND THE WATER, ARE GONE-- LEAVING ONLY AN UNCONSCIOUS, METALLIC, AND NO LONGER MOLTEN SUPER-VILLAIN!

LOOK! H-HE'S REVERTED TO HIS ORIGINAL, METAL-PERMEATED SELF! HE'S STOPPED BURNING!

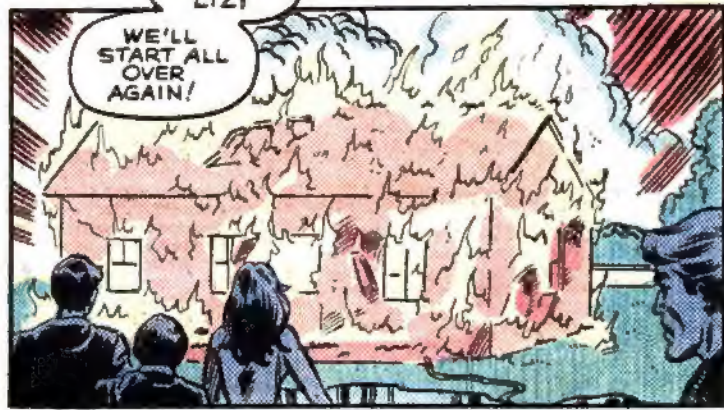
THEN... IS THE THREAT OF THE MOLTEN MAN... OVER?



I DON'T KNOW, LIZ. HE WAS NO SLOUCH EVEN IN HIS METALLIC FORM.

HARRY, OUR HOME--?

WE'LL REBUILD, LIZ!



WE'LL START ALL OVER AGAIN!



WE'LL HELP HARRY!

SURE, BUDDY-- YOU CAN COUNT ON US!

YOU CAN STAY AT MY PLACE TILL THE JOB'S DONE!

I-I DON'T KNOW HOW TO...

THANK YOU! THANK YOU ALL!

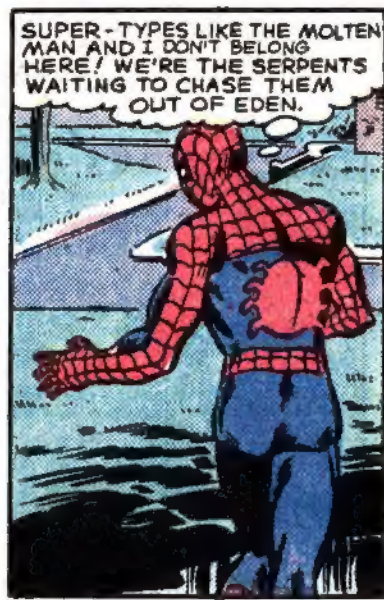
NO NEED, LIZ-- THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR!

FRIENDS... AND NEIGHBORS!

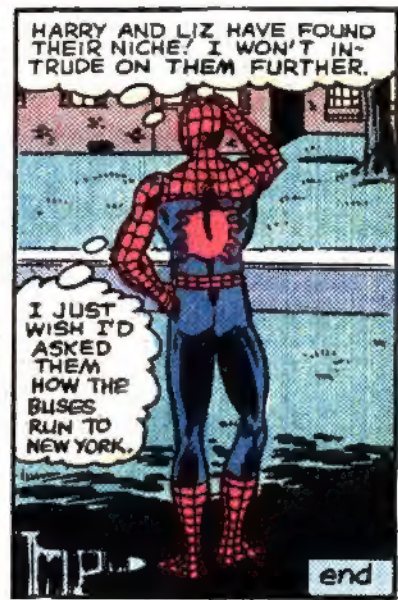


IS THIS THE APATHETIC SUBURBS I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT?

SOUNDS LIKE HARRY AND LIZ HAVE FOUND THEMSELVES A LITTLE PIECE OF PARADISE ON EARTH!



SUPER-TYPES LIKE THE MOLTEN MAN AND I DON'T BELONG HERE! WE'RE THE SERPENTS WAITING TO CHASE THEM OUT OF EDEN.



HARRY AND LIZ HAVE FOUND THEIR NICHE! I WON'T INTRUDE ON THEM FURTHER.

I JUST WISH I'D ASKED THEM HOW THE BUSES RUN TO NEW YORK.

end